

Governor's Family Violence Council Meeting
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Jeanne Yeager, Chair
Dorothy Lennig, Esq., Vice-Chair
Lillian Agbeyegbe
Heather Amador for V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Reverend Lawrence Crabtree
Jessica Dickerson for Secretary Sam Abed
Debbie Feinstein, Esq.
Lt. Diane Hansen for Superintendent Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III
Lisae Jordan, Esq. for Delegate Kriselda Valderrama
Senator Susan Lee
Dr. Pamela Love Manning
John McGinnis for Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury
Marcia Morris for Secretary Lourdes Padilla
Lisa Nitsch
Scott Patterson, Esq.
Jennifer Pollitt-Hill
Delegate Haven Shoemaker
David Shultie
Carrie Williams, Esq. for Attorney General Brian Frosh

Guests:

Michael Lore, Maryland General Assembly
Kelly Mitchell, Office of the Secretary of State
Leslye Orloff, National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Staff:

Rebecca Allyn

I. Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:01 a.m. Ms. Allyn conducted a roll call and guests introduced themselves. Reverend Lawrence Crabtree was introduced as a newly appointed Council member.

II. Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

Heather Amador presented the Council with a proclamation from Governor Hogan, marking October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The proclamation will be mailed to Ms. Yeager, Chairwoman of the Governor's Family Violence Council.

III. Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Grant Updates

Ms. Allyn shared with members that continuation funding was provided for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) subrecipients, continuation funding will be provided for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) subrecipients, and the Office is continuing to look for ways to fill the VOCA funding deficiencies. The Office is currently reviewing applications for Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) and the Children's Justice Act Committee (CJAC) Grant. The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Fund (CESF) ends 12/31/21 and an extension request has been submitted to the federal monitor. Ms. Allyn thanked members and subrecipients for their patience as the Office works through this award season that has come with many changes and delays from both the state and our federal funders.

IV. Approval of Minutes and 2021 Annual Report

Minutes from the July 2021 Council meeting were provided to members and guests. The draft 2021 Governor's Family Violence Council Annual Report was also provided to members. Mr. McGinnis requested that the Maryland State Department of Education Superintendent be updated to Mohammed Choudhury in the report. Ms. Yeager made a motion to approve the minutes and report, including the proposed update; Delegate Shoemaker seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes and annual report were approved.

V. Workgroup Updates

a. Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy

The workgroup is conducting a social media campaign this month, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, to increase awareness of the risks associated between intimate partner violence and pregnancy. Resources, information and awareness events will be shared via social media. The workgroup provided website update recommendations to the Maryland Department of Health. The workgroup will be concluded following the social media campaign.

b. Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases

The workgroup met with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) in August to continue discussions regarding increasing fingerprinting oversight. DPSCS is enforcing fingerprinting of supervised probationers but does not have the resources to oversee the fingerprinting status of defendants who are on unsupervised probation. The workgroup will conclude at this time.

c. Abuser Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders Workgroup

The workgroup held their first meeting on October 7. The reconvened workgroup will examine the various responses by the criminal justice system when abusive partners fail to meet the conditions set by a criminal court order. The workgroup aims to answer: What is the outcome of cases when defendants fail to meet conditions of a court order, and what are the repercussions? In August 2020, updates were made to the DPSCS Offender Case Management System (OCMS) to include more fields to track AIP orders and completion. DPSCS can provide violation of probation data related to abuse intervention programs to the workgroup. During the period of August 2020 - October 2021, the workgroup requested:

- number of offenders with AIP as a condition of probation
- number of offenders who fail to complete AIP within probation period
- number of offenders who were violated for failure to complete AIP within probation period (of those, number of offenders where probation was continued, revoked, or closed, as well as number of offenders with failure to complete AIP or AIP condition removed)

The workgroup will meet next on November 9.

d. Abuse Intervention Program (AIP) Workgroup

Five programs received a site visit this year and all were found to be in compliance with the Council's Operational Guidelines for AIPs.

A meeting will be scheduled before the end of the year to review a draft memorandum of understanding template for AIPs and victim service providers.

Ms. Allyn asked members if House of Ruth's curriculum training would fall under the required training for working with perpetrators. Members agreed that the training would qualify but emphasized that programs should ensure that the curriculum would be appropriate for their clients.

Ms. Agbeyegbe provided members with an overview of a hearing held on September 30 with North Carroll AIP. The AIP was denied certification earlier this year for failure to submit required information for certification, and failure to meet certain guidelines as set forth by the Governor's Family Violence Council. The AIP was given the opportunity to address the Council during the hearing. The purpose of the guidelines is to promote victim safety by establishing minimum operating standards for AIPs in Maryland, and for that reason the certification denial was upheld.

VI. Old/New Business

2022 meetings will be scheduled soon, and calendar invitations will be sent out to members once scheduled.

Members shared updates on their organizations and domestic violence awareness month events.

- Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence recently partnered with a local bookstore and created a bookmark to continue conversations and awareness of domestic violence.
- House of Ruth Maryland is conducting a webinar every Wednesday in October on the Safe Futures Collaborative, highlighting the learning center.
- The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is holding their Annual Meeting on October 28.
- The Department of Juvenile Services is hosting an event for youth where MNADV will present.

Members discussed legislative initiatives that will most likely be included in the 2022 legislative session. Ms. Lennig shared that House of Ruth and MNADV are working on a bill to expand the current stalking law to include electronic communication/tracking. Ms. Jordan shared that the bill to repeal marriage as a defense to sex crimes will be reintroduced. Senator Lee is looking at legislation related to domestic violence training for law enforcement.

Ms. Orloff shared that she is interested in identifying what other states have done with services for immigrants and how Maryland could replicate that.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Yeager made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Shoemaker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/nqz-imvq-shg

Phone: 570-416-2232

PIN: 310 679 010#